



Fall 2022 Newsletter

Dear colleagues and friends,

Warm greetings from the University of New Brunswick, Saint John.

November 20th marked World Children's Day, and this year marks the 33rd anniversary of the UN General Assembly's adoption of the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#). As we celebrate this important day and reflect on the achievements made in securing children's rights over the past 33 years, we must also reflect on the work that must continue. With this in mind, I am pleased to share with you the progress we have made in the GlobalChild program.

To begin, I am delighted to announce that I have been appointed a Chair in Child Rights and Child Development at the University of New Brunswick's [Integrated Health Initiative](#). I look forward to working closely with this initiative and continue sharing the message of the importance of child rights and child development. The GlobalChild platform has also made significant progress, with a successful launch event last December and plans to pilot the platform both abroad and here in Canada. Our InspiRights project has launched its first series of surveys, gathering nominations of good practices from across North America. I am excited to share that we have begun to process of creating a Child Advisory Board for GlobalChild, ensuring that children will have the space and opportunity to be involved with the work and we research we conduct. I invite you to read more about each of these projects in the sections below.

Last but definitely not least, the world is becoming an increasingly difficult place for children to survive and thrive. On this sombre note, I would like to acknowledge the killing of children by the Islamic Republic of Iran. As citizens have engaged in protests for their freedom, the dictatorship in place in Iran has killed more than 60 children between the ages of 9-18 years old over the past few weeks. These horrific actions are a stark reminder that much work remains to be done in securing a safe and secure today and tomorrow for all children.

Thank you all for all you do to make the world a better place for children.

Kind regards,
Ziba

Dr. Ziba Vaghri (she/her)
Associate Professor
Research Chair in Child Rights & Child Development
Faculty of Business
Director, [GlobalChild Program of Research](#)





GlobalChild



InspiRights: Call to Participate in an Exciting Global Study

[InspiRights: Good Practices to Inspire and Facilitate Children's Rights](#) is a 5-year project that will take an inventory of good practices that inspire children's rights around the world and share these practices with an international audience. In collaboration with a consortium of eight universities and international and regional agencies, InspiRights will compile a list of good practices (legislation, policies, and programs that promote the implementation of children's rights under the CRC) and publish the list as a stand-alone resource.



Beginning with a North American survey, InspiRights will gather information from governments, organizations and individuals seeking to nominate a good practice. Following the completion of the North American Pilot survey, the InspiRights project will move forward with launching its Global survey. The success of this project will depend on the extent to which the survey has been shared and responded to by experts in children's rights policy and programming worldwide. We invite you to follow our social media to keep up to date on the project.

Currently, the InspiRights project's North American survey is open and available for participants to nominate good practices. We invite you to participate in the survey.

[InspiRights North American Survey](#)



GlobalChild's New Brunswick Child Advisory Board

Recognizing the importance of child participation, the GlobalChild team has been hard at work in preparing a project that will facilitate children's participation in the GlobalChild program.

With the generous funding of the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation's Research Related Support Fund, the GlobalChild team has initiated the development of a Child Advisory Board in New Brunswick, Canada. The Child Advisory Board will consist of a group of New Brunswick children who will discuss and provide feedback on the GlobalChild's various projects and participate in knowledge translation activities. The GlobalChild team is excited to move forward with this project and looks forward to beginning recruitment for the Child Advisory Board in the upcoming months.



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Celebrating the Canadian Launch of the GlobalChild Platform

The GlobalChild Platform was launched online to a Canadian audience on December 13th, 2021, commemorating the 30th anniversary of Canada's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We were honoured by the support of 5 former UN Chairs of the Committee on the Rights of the Child who spoke during the webinar, as well as the opening by Honourable Landon Pearson O.C. This event was generously funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) through a Connection grant.

The Canadian Launch was a huge success with almost 500 researchers, advocates, government officials, NGOs, and civil society members from across our vast country, and around the world, in attendance. We sincerely appreciate the support from our partners who promoted for this significant event, as well as all those who worked behind the scenes to execute it. Since the launch, we have had several governments express interest in piloting the platform. You can watch a recording of the webinar [here](#).

GlobalChild
CANADIAN PLATFORM LAUNCH



Launching the Belgium Pilot of the GlobalChild Platform

Following the success of the Canadian Launch of the GlobalChild Platform, [Belgium's National Commission on the Rights of the Child](#) expressed interest in piloting the GlobalChild Platform. Following weeks of dialogue, and with the approval of Belgium's Intergovernmental Working Group on the Rights of the Child, GlobalChild's [Steering Committee](#) designated Belgium to be the first international jurisdiction to pilot the GlobalChild Platform.

The [BE-Pilot of GlobalChild](#) will take an inventory of the structures and processes in place in Belgium to support the substantive rights of children under the CRC using the indicator sets that align with the areas of concern identified in the UNCRC's last Concluding Observations. The collected data on these structures and processes through GlobalChild will inform Belgium's 2024 report to the United Nations Committee on the Right of the Child.

The BE-Pilot is being conducted in close partnership with Belgium's National Commission on the Rights of the Child.

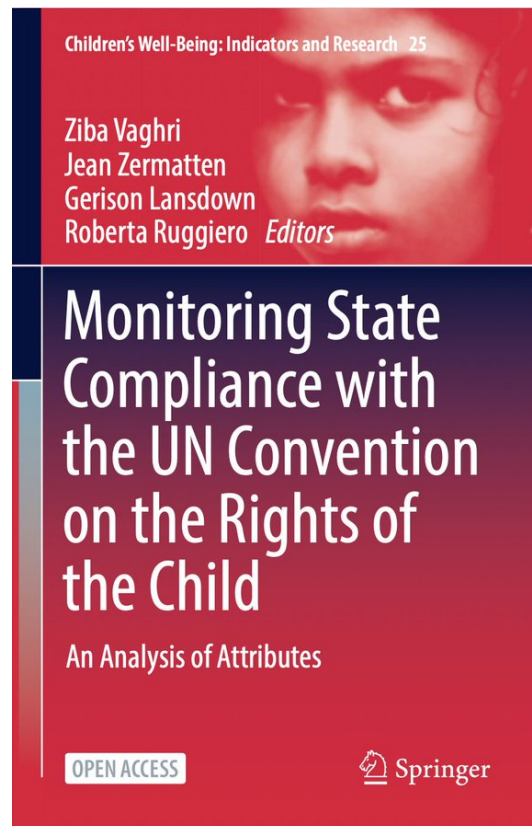




Publication of Open Access Book with Springer

The GlobalChild Indicators Development Team (IDT) has published an open access book: [Monitoring State Compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: An Analysis of Attributes](#). The book documents the outcome of the first phase of our methodology in developing the indicator sets of the GlobalChild platform: identifying the key attributes of all substantive rights of children under the CRC. Containing a wealth of information on every substantive right under the CRC, this book offers an invaluable reference guide for researchers and students in the field of childhood and children's rights studies, as well as a wide range of professionals and organizations concerned with the subject.

This book is edited and authored by Ziba Vaghri, Jean Zermatten, Gerison Lansdown, and Roberta Ruggiero, with authorship by Adem Arkadas-Thibert, Christian Whalen, Katherine Covell, Damon Barrett, and Gavin Kotze. Tim Covell is the structural- and copy-editor of the manuscript.



Preparing the New Brunswick Pilot of the GlobalChild Platform

Preparations for the [New Brunswick Pilot of GlobalChild](#), the first pilot region in Canada, are currently underway. A meeting to determine the members of this steering committee will take place in early December 2022. In 2023, data will be collected in New Brunswick on the strengths and gaps in government capacity to fulfill all 41 children's substantive rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This pilot is being conducted in close partnership with the [NB Office of the Child and Youth Advocate](#). Data will be collected in New Brunswick on the strengths and gaps in government capacity to fulfill all 41 children's substantive rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We are looking forward to starting data collection by the end of 2022.

Research (CIHR), the [New Brunswick Innovation Foundation \(NBIF\)](#) and the [New Brunswick Health Research Foundation \(NBHRF\)](#).



HEAL 3005: Child Health and Child Rights at the University of New Brunswick

GlobalChild has created new course under the Integrated Health Initiative called HEAL 3005: Child Rights and Child Health. The first of its kind in New Brunswick, HEAL 3005 is an exciting new health course that focuses on children's human rights and their relationship with children's health and development. Undergraduate students had the opportunity to engage in critical thinking about human rights and their impact on children's lives, child-focused practices, and policy development across disciplines during the inaugural offering of this course at UNB in May 2022. This is a unique course that can serve as an elective for students from diverse fields such as: pre-med, pre-law, any health-related programs, or social-science branches and will be offered annually.



Recent Meetings and Events:

March 28th, 2022: ISPCAN Quebec City 2022 Congress, Quebec City, Canada

April 29th, 2022: Child Rights Academic Network General Meeting, Ottawa, Canada

June 9th, 2022: GlobalChild workshop at the ISPCAN Estonia 2022 World Congress, Tallinn, Estonia

June 20th, 2022: International Summer Course on the Rights of the Child Roundtable Discussion, Moncton, Canada

July 14th, 2022: World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP) World Assembly and Conference Panel Discussion, Athens, Greece

October 9th, 2022: American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference and Exhibition, Anaheim, USA

November 16th, 2022: NBHRF Health Research Week Panel Discussion - Research in the Community: A Youth Lens, Fredericton, Canada

November 30th, 2022: Belgium Pilot Teams Meeting and Work Retreat, Brussels, Belgium

Important Presentations since our last Newsletter:

"Healthy Children, Health Communities," New Brunswick Health Research Foundation: Health Research Week, Legislative Breakfast. Wednesday November 16th, 2022. Fredericton, New Brunswick.

"GlobalChild; A data centric approach to child rights in practice, policy, advocacy," American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference and Exhibition. Sunday October 9th, 2022. Anaheim, California.

"Implementing CRC in Early Childhood: Global use of UNCRC GC7 Indicators as a Monitoring Tool," panel discussion for the World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP) World Assembly and Conference, July 14th, 2022. Athens, Greece.

"Right to a healthy environment and right to the highest attainable standard of health and development for children with

“GlobalChild Data Monitoring System for governments,” workshop presented at the ISPCAN Estonia 2022 World Congress. June 14th, 2022. Tallinn, Estonia.

“Advocacy in the post-pandemic era: the era of widened inequalities,” Child Rights Academic Network Annual Meeting. April 29th, 2022. Ottawa, Canada.

“When Children Thrive, Communities Prosper,” Open University program, Urban & Community Studies Institute (UCSI) at the University of New Brunswick. April 20th, 2022. Saint John, Canada.

“GlobalChild: A rights-based data-centric approach to child protection,” ISPCAN Quebec City 2022 Congress. March 27, 2022. Quebec City, Canada. (Webinar)

No Violence for Kids Canada. Dionne, D. January 28th, 2022. [“Monitoring State Compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child”](#).

Telegraph-Journal. Glass, M. December 15, 2021. [“‘There's room for Canada to improve’; UNB unveils first-of-its-kind child rights monitoring system”](#).

Garage à Musique, Centre Spécialisé en Pédiatrie Sociale. December 3rd, 2021. [“Interview de Dre Ziba Vaghri”](#).

“Realizing Children’s Rights in the Early Years,” International ECD Congress. November 20, 2021. Istanbul, Turkey. (Webinar)

“Early Child Development (ECD); a strong determinant of health across the life span,” Mind Body Fitness Week, Government College for Women. October 7, 2021. Jammu, India. (Webinar)

New Publications from the GlobalChild Team:

Z. Vaghri, C. Whalen, A. Ghorbani and A. Brutinel. (2022). GlobalChild : Un instrument pour surveiller la violence contre les enfants et faire respecter les droits des enfants à la protection (Eds.), La qualité de l’accompagnement en protection de l’enfance: Établir des indicateurs (pp. 52-73). <https://www.editions-harmattan.fr/livre-la-qualite-de-l-accompagnement-en-protection-de-l-enfance-etablir-des-indicateurs-gilles-seraphin-9782140300967-74617.html>

Z. Vaghri, J. Zermatten, G. Lansdown and R. Ruggiero (Eds.). “Attributes of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: Analysis for State Compliance,” Geneva, Switzerland: Springer Nature. (2022). <https://www.springer.com/de/book/9783030846466>

Y. Lee (2022). “The United Nations is failing the people of Myanmar” Washington Post. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2022/11/02/un-failing-myanmar-burma-people-revolution/>

Z. Vaghri and L. De Souza. (2021). Child Protection in British Columbia: Moving Toward Primary Prevention. Canadian Public Administration, 64(3), 1-18. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/capa.12430>

Z. Vaghri, L. Namazova (2021). “Global child rights dialogue (GCRD): what children across the globe think about their right to health,” Abstract prepared for the 10th Europaediatric Conference. Preventive and Social Pediatrics. Zagreb, Croatia. https://adc.bmj.com/content/106/Suppl_2/A195.2

New Staff and Trainees:

GlobalChild is pleased to introduce the new members of our team:



Rowan Hickie has recently completed her LLM in international human rights law at the Irish Centre for Human Rights, National University of Ireland Galway. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree as well as a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Alberta and was called to the Alberta bar in 2020. She recently joined the GlobalChild team as Project Coordinator for the InspiRights Project.



Stanford Yang is completing a Bachelor of Arts with honours in psychology and a minor in criminal justice at the University of New Brunswick, Saint John. A human service counsellor by trade, he is also a part of many ongoing research projects within the Department of Psychology as a member of the Music and Multisensory Processing lab, Centre for Criminal Justice Studies, and Speedlab. He joined the GlobalChild team as a Summer Student (supported by NBHRF) in summer 2022. Stanford is currently a student conducting a Directed Study within the GlobalChild program.



from Anywhere) with over 25+ years of experience, he founded several successful startups including the first Internet Provider in Atlantic Canada and worked for both large national and regional companies in senior roles in Engineering, Business Development, Operations, and Marketing.



Faith Igogo is currently a second-year master's student of Applied Health Service research at University of New Brunswick doing her research within the GlobalChild program. She holds a Bachelor's in General Medicine from the Ivano-Frankivsk National Medical University Ukraine 2017 and completed her clinical residency program in Pediatrics in the same University 2019. An active participant in child rights and health dialogue and an award-winning speaker, she recently joined the GlobalChild team as a Master's student.



Shiva Joudaki is currently a first-year master's student in the Interdisciplinary Studies program at the University of New Brunswick Saint John getting her graduate training within the GlobalChild program. She holds an undergraduate degree in Drama and is a fiction and non-fiction writer for the Iranian Radio and various magazines. A concerned child right activist, she's currently working on assessing threats against child rights in virtual environment as a Master's student.



of New Brunswick getting her graduate training within the GlobalChild program. She completed her higher studies at the University of Kelaniya faculty of medicine and subsequently completed her internship at Lady Ridgeway Hospital for children and Castel Street Hospital for women in pediatric surgery and OB/GYN respectively. She further completed an MSc in Biomedical Informatics and MD in Health Informatics. Aiming to promote maternal and children's health & development through research in digital health intervention, she recently joined the GlobalChild team as a Master's student.



Ashley Legacy is an undergraduate student in Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education concurrent program at the University of New Brunswick, Saint John Campus. Entering her final year in the degree program, she hopes to pursue further studies in her field while promoting international advocacy for education rights. She recently joined the GlobalChild team as a volunteer.

Social Media:

Please follow our Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook pages for regular updates about our activities and other information that is relevant to our work. We are grateful for the support that we have been receiving from many of you on these mediums. This initiative is part of a social media campaign led by the University of New Brunswick in preparation for GlobalChild's pilot & implementation phase.



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Contact us:

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The GlobalChild team is a multi-agency alliance, led by the Secretariat from the University of New Brunswick, Canada, and generously funded by federal and provincial funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research.

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